



Hebron Community Church

December 2025 Newsletter



December 2025—Have a Perfectly Un-Perfect Christmas

This month we again celebrate the coming of God in flesh, in the birth of Jesus, as we celebrate Christmas. I know I say it every year, but I truly hope that we never let Christmas become just a nice time to spend with our family or a time to give and get gifts. It is so easy for us to celebrate Christmas the way the world does, focusing on parts of the holiday that really aren't that important in light of the birth of Jesus.

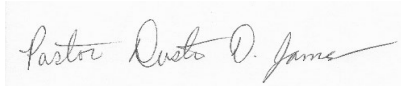
At his time of year, all the retailers go into overdrive trying to sell us the 'perfect gift' for our loved ones, the 'perfect food' for our get-togethers, have the 'perfect decorations' for our houses, etc. For retail outlets, their main concern at Christmas is how they can part us from the most money possible; they don't really care about us having a 'Perfect Christmas' even though they try to push the idea on us. They bombard us with ads on TV and social media, showing us the next big thing. They have even gotten 'influencers' to make videos about their products and how 'perfect' they are for us. They tell us that if we really love the people in our lives, then we will put more money into the presents we pick out for them to give them that perfect holiday. And of course, we want to show our love, so we can get caught in the trap of spending large amounts of money to make sure everything is just right. Everything has to be 'perfect', after all.

That's the name of the game—making sure that everything at Christmas is just perfect. But in doing that, we lose focus of what's really important—that God gave up heaven to come and live among us so that He might show us the love of God in His life and in His death. God took on flesh, and except for Jesus himself, there was nothing perfect about the way that Christ came into the world. He was born to a young, unmarried girl who had to explain to everyone why she came up pregnant outside of marriage and a poor carpenter who couldn't provide for Him the things that a king should have. At his birth, he was laid into a feeding trough where slop for the animals was usually put. The only visitors to herald His arrival in the manger were shepherds, considered the lowest of the low in their society. If he were born today instead, I would imagine that it would be the homeless that would receive the message that our Savior had been born, and Jesus might even be born out in the cold himself.

We have this perfect, polished version of Christmas that can't be farther from the truth. The birth of Jesus into this world was a messy ordeal, but I think that was the point. Christ was born into the messiness of this life. He got right into the 'thick of it' with those He came to save. He didn't separate Himself from us or hold Himself above us in any way. He came to be our Emmanuel, 'God with us' and that's exactly what He is. He is with us in all of life—He's here celebrating with us in the good times, and He carries us through the hard times. Jesus never promised that we wouldn't go through bad times, but promised that He would be with us always. That's what we celebrate this Christmas—that Jesus was born into the messiness of this life because of His great love for us.

So, don't worry if everything is 'perfect' this year and don't buy into the culture's version of Christmas, where you show how much you love somebody by how much you spend on them. Let your focus stay where it belongs—on the baby Jesus laying in a feeding trough surrounded by those forgotten by society—God born into this messed up, crazy life to be with those He loved so that He could redeem fallen humanity. We celebrate God with us, ever present in our lives all because He loves you and me and called us His children. I pray that this Christmas will be a time of blessing for you and that you truly experience the presence of God in a very real way this year.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dustin D. James". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Dustin D. James

The children 's library could use more books suited for youth. We have a good selection for younger children but not as they get older. If you have any books you are willing to share, they may be placed in the children's Sunday school room in the lower level of the education building or given to Martha. Thank You!

Methodist Women
Friendship Circle

Our Circle met with the Methodist Men on Monday, November 17, to watch the video which had been prepared on the Little Steps of Love shoe distribution. We are so humbled to be reminded of what our small gifts can mean to children in Guatemala. Twenty pairs of shoes, along with snacks and drinks went to preschool children who meet in an individual's garage for lack of school space. These children were also recipients of clothing and chairs for their "school" room last year. Twenty pairs of shoes went to children who help earn money for their families by begging in the streets or washing windshields of vehicles stopped at traffic lights or preparing foods on the streets. Twenty pairs of shoes went to children who glean in the trash dump sites or break rocks to sell the gravel just to help support their families! Some of these children were able to attend the Christmas party we helped arrange last year. All the children expressed their appreciation and thanks. We heard and saw the husband and wife who are ministers of the Light of the Nation Church which we have partnered with in the past. Without their help as well as the help of Evelyn's parents, brother and sister-in-law and sister, and a special teacher from the school where Evelyn had been, none of this could have happened. The man who agreed to provide so many shoes of varied sizes, was so impressed with what was being done and who was making it happen that he accepted Jesus Christ as his savior.

We are so blessed and will be looking for opportunities to continue the special connection we have with people who don't live in Mebane but who are our neighbors.

Our December meeting will be lunch together on Sunday, December 14, following our worship service. We will first assemble our Christmas gifts for our friends at Springview Homes in Elon and collect treats which will welcome ALM participants back following their Christmas break. We will then travel to Roma's Italian Restaurant, on Mebane Oaks Rd., to share a meal together. Ladies we want you to join us! Please let Martha know if you will be at lunch as she will give an expected count to the manager at Roma's. Everyone please look for the bake sale that will coincide with the men's stew sale. We appreciate all donations of baked goods and the purchase of those baked goods!

A very Blessed and Merry Christmas to you all 

Missions and Outreach Committee – December 2025 Newsletter

Hebron members filled 39 Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes. Pastor Dustin blessed them on Sunday, November 16th. Chris Perrera and Pat Snipes delivered them to Grace Reform Baptist Church on Monday afternoon.

Plans are underway to decorate the Hebron Community Church float for Mebane's Christmas Parade on Friday, December 5th.

The Angel Tree mission to provide gifts for a local Alamance County family began on Sunday, November 30th. Pick your gift tag from the Christmas tree in the vestibule and record your name on the form located on the table beneath the tree. All gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 14th.

Prayers for a blessed Christmas Season with family and friends remembering that "Jesus is the reason for the Season."

HEBRON COMMUNITY CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Sunday, November 9, 2025

Present:

Pastor Dustin James	Jay Wilson	Buster Albright	Betty Boney
Ben Boney	Sandy Dixon	Billy Williams	Pat Snipes
Martha Graham			

Also In Attendance:

Margaret Lankford

Pastor Dustin shared a devotion based on Romans 8:31 which states “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” Remember to rest in Him.
Dustin then opened our meeting with prayer.

The Minutes from our October meeting were previously approved on-line.

SPRC

At the last meeting, the committee approved a raise for Cathy. Also approved were Christmas bonuses for Cathy, Todd, AnnGayle and Markie. A Christmas Love Offering will be taken for Dustin.
Sandy told us she will not continue as SPRC chairperson in 2026.

NOMINATIONS

The Council reviewed the proposed Leadership Team for 2026. Betty made a motion we accept the proposed Team. Billy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

FINANCE

The proposed budget for 2026 was reviewed. Ben made a motion we accept the proposed budget; Betty seconded the motion and the motion carried.

TRUSTEES

The dead tree in the upper parking lot has been removed. The stump will be ground. It is hoped the log can be sold to pay for the stump grinding.

WORSHIP

A Hanging of the Greens is being organized for Sunday, November 30. The 30th being a 5th Sunday, we will have a special evening of song followed by a soup supper.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Pat read a note of thanks from S.A.F.E. We collected 495 lbs. of canned meats and other non-perishable food from July through September.
Pastor Dustin will bless our Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Child shoeboxes Sunday, November 16. Pat and Chris Perera will deliver the boxes to Grace Church Monday, November 17.
Hebron has been approved to have a float in the Mebane Christmas Parade. Plans are underway to decorate the float. The committee met this afternoon and will meet again Friday, November 14.
Pat is in contact with Ambraya, the social worker at Garrett Elementary School. She will have a family for us as quickly as possible so that our congregation has ample time to purchase gifts. The deadline for bringing wrapped gifts is Sunday, December 14. The gifts must be delivered to Garrett by December 18.
Sunshine Baskets continue to be delivered.
Helping Hands will provide refreshments following Pauline Holliday’s funeral Saturday, November 15.

METHODIST MEN

The men sponsored a table at the recent fundraising dinner for Piedmont Rescue Mission. In addition, they paid \$2,545.00 for the ingredients for the Brunswick stew and meat for the bar-b-que served at the Festival.

METHODIST WOMEN

The women will be viewing a video of the distribution of Steps of Love shoes in Guatemala at their meeting Monday, November 17. Prior to their Christmas lunch in December, they will prepare gift bags for the residents of Springview Homes.

FALL FESTIVAL

The gross profit from the festival (which included a \$500 cash donation) was \$12,899.75. After deducting the expenses of \$1,290.92, the net proceeds was \$11,608.83.

PASTOR

Dustin reminded us Charge Conference is Sunday, November 16, at 4:00 p.m. The business portion will be followed by a Thanksgiving service. We will be joined by the churches in our Southern Circle. Please bring light refreshments to share following the service.

There being no further business, we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Graham

December Birthdays

8th	Ashley Martin Green Phillip Martin Ronnie Price
12th	Aaron Walters
13th	John Whited, Jr.
14th	Julia Cook Don Mitchell Marleigh Lankford
15th	Drake Williams Gloria Martin
18th	Ben Boney
19th	Matthew Jones Laura Lankford Nolan Martin
20th	Sam Cook
21st	Bill McPherson
22nd	Rebecca Sykes Jackson
25th	Jennifer Warren
28th	Bruce Mullis
29th	Dana Culberson Don Windsor

Up Coming Events in January

- 4th Isaiah Café open 9:55 to 10:25 Quilt Hallway
5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- 10th 9 am Un-Decorate
- 11th 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- 16th Stew Prep
- 17th Stew and Bake Sale
- 18th 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- 20th Newsletter Deadline
- 24th 9 am Day Apart
- 25th 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- Every Tuesday night at 6 pm is Prayer meeting in the Prayer Room
- Every Wednesday night at 6 pm Bible Study
- Pastors Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

December 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Nursery Schedule / Children's Church Greeters

Acolytes

30 Sunday School Worship 1st Sunday of Advent / Angel Tree 5 Roar Youth	1 9-4 ALM	2 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg.	3 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	4 9-4 ALM	5 Stew Prep	6 Stew Sale / Bake Sale
7 Sunday School Worship Communion 5 pm Dinner Program	8 9-4 ALM	9 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	10 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	11 9-4 ALM	12	13 5-8 Parents Night Out
14 Sunday School Worship Angel Tree Collection 5 Roar Youth	15 9-4 ALM	16 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg. Newsletter Deadline	17 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	18 9-4 ALM	19	20
21 Sunday School Worship A Lesson in Carols	22	23 6 Prayer Mtg.	24 6 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 Sunday School Worship Hut 11:30 – 2 5 Roar Youth	29	30 6 Prayer Mtg.	31 11 pm New Year's Eve Party	1	2	3

December 7 th	Joannie Wilson & Betty Albright Jenny Allred & Robin Sykes	Marleigh Lankford
December 14 th	Betty Boney & Pat Snipes Cicero Sykes & Markie Roberts	Michael & Renee McPherson Carlos Montejo
December 21 st	Marti Graham & Jay Wilson Joannie Wilson & Rachel Lankford	Jr. & Robin Sykes Peyton McBride
December 28 th	Becca Bartlett & Markie Roberts No Children's Church	Annabelle Allred

December 7th Isaiah Café will be open from 9:55 am until 10:25 am with small pastries and juices available in the Quilt Hallway.